REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 8, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 12, 14 to 18, 32 to 37, 39 to 47, 49 to 53, 67 to 71, 74 and 119 to 121 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are independent.

Claims 1, 32, 36, 37, 67, 71 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Amendments to the claims are believed to obviate the rejections. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 9, 11, 12, 14 to 18, 32 to 37, 39 to 44, 46, 47, 49 to 53, 67 to 71, 74 and 119 to 121 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,644,776 (DeRose); and Claims 10 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DeRose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,148 (Rowe). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. Among other features of the invention, items for selection are displayed in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification independently of the content of the resources, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description, and further items for selection are displayed, in response to a received indication, in accordance with an attribute representative of a further axis of access independently of the content of the resources, the further items corresponding to child descriptor components of the first selected one or more descriptor components. In this

way, items for selection and further items for selection can be displayed independently of the content of the resources.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 defines a method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The method comprises reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and having descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, at least one of the axes of access being a table-of-contents classification, each descriptor component having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification also having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources. The method also comprises displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is the table-of-contents classification independently of the content of the resources, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step. The method also comprises receiving a first selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items, receiving an indication of a further axis of access, and displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access independently of the content of the resources, the further items corresponding to child descriptor components of the first selected one or more descriptor components. The method also comprises reading, in response to a second selection of the child descriptor component having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected child descriptor component.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are directed to an apparatus and computer readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

The applied reference is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 36 and 71, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification independently of the content of resources, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description, and displaying, in response to a received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a further axis of access independently of the content of the resources, the further items corresponding to child descriptor components of the first selected one or more descriptor components.

The Office Action asserts that DeRose discloses "The retrieved text as disclosed at Col. 18, Lines 33-43 is from a text file, which is not the actual document." (Office Action, page 5). However, DeRose's text file is created by saving the text of a text chunk received from the parsed document. (column 12, lines 46 to 51 of DeRose). Accordingly, while DeRose may disclose retrieving text content from a text file and displaying the retrieved text in a table-of-contents (see Figures 12 to 14 of DeRose), DeRose's table-of-contents is not seen to be displayed independently of the content of the resources. Accordingly, DeRose is not seen to disclose or to suggest displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification independently of the content of resources, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description, and displaying, in response to a received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute

representative of a further axis of access independently of the content of the resources, the further items corresponding to child descriptor components of the first selected one or more descriptor components.

The remaining cited reference, namely Rowe, is not seen to cure the deficiencies of DeRose, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 36 and 71 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 32 is defines a method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource. The method comprises reading the description of the resource, the description being separate from the content of the resource and having descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature, the description also having one or more of the descriptor components including a table of contents attribute and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute, the descriptor components that include a table of contents attribute also having a link to a corresponding portion of the resource. The method also comprises displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items independently of the content of the resources, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute. The method also comprises receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for an annotation, displaying an index containing displayed index items independently of the content of the resources, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item, and receiving a selection of one displayed index item. The method also comprises associating the selected displayed index item with the

selected table of contents item, receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected displayed index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected displayed index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide the annotation of the resource.

Independent Claim 32 includes, for example, the features of displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items independently of the content of resources, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute, and displaying an index containing displayed index items independently of the content of the resources, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item.

Independent Claims 67 and 74 are directed to an apparatus and computer readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 32.

As discussed above, while DeRose may disclose retrieving text content from a text file and displaying the retrieved text in a table-of-contents, DeRose's table-of-contents is not seen to be displayed independently of the content of the resources. Accordingly, DeRose is not seen to disclose or to suggest displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items independently of the content of resources, each table of contents item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute, and displaying an index containing displayed index items independently of the content of the resources, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item.

The remaining cited reference, namely Rowe, is not seen to cure the deficiencies of DeRose, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 32, 67 and 74 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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